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JUN 12 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/886,239  
Filed: June 20, 2001  
Inventor(s):  
Jeffrey D. Washington, Michael  
Santori and Robert C. Young

Title: Collector Node for a  
Graphical Program

§ Examiner: Unknown Technology Center 2100  
§ Group/Art Unit: 2183  
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5150-48900

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Office of Initial Patent Examination, Customer Service Center, Washington, DC 20231, on the date indicated below.

Jeffrey C. Hood

Name of Registered Representative

*Jr C Hood* 6/5/2002  
Signature Date

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

~~Please enter the following preliminary amendment in the above-captioned case.~~  
~~Please amend the case as listed below.~~

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

~~Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1 in the "Description of the Related Art" section with the following paragraph:~~

*A1*  
The method disclosed in Kodosky et al allows a user to construct a diagram using a block diagram editor. The block diagram may include a plurality of interconnected icons such that the diagram created graphically displays a procedure or method for accomplishing a certain result, such as manipulating one or more input variables and/or producing one or more output variables. In response to the user constructing a diagram or graphical program using the block diagram editor, data structures may be automatically constructed which characterize an execution procedure which corresponds to the displayed procedure. The graphical program may be compiled or interpreted by a computer.